

for fear that the Plan Colombia, as it succeeds, will cause the problem to spill over the borders into other states. Now, let's be candid: If it's successful, some of that will happen. But we have funds in Plan Colombia, in the American portion of it, that can be used, a substantial amount of money, to help other countries deal with these problems at the borders right when they start.

And I would ask the neighbors of Colombia to consider the alternative. If you really say Colombia can't attack this in an aggressive way because there will be some negative consequences on our border, the logical conclusion is that all the cancer of narco-trafficking and lawless violence in this entire vast continent should rest on the shoulders and burden the children of this one nation. And that's just not right.

And so, I understand the reluctance of the leaders of other countries to embrace this. It's a frightening prospect to take on this. But this man, more than once, has risked his life to do it. So I just want to assure the other countries the United States will not abandon you. We actually have specific provisions in this bill to provide assistance to neighboring countries that suffer adversely because of the disruptions. But this is something that the democratic leaders of this continent should do together, arm in arm, hand in hand. We will be as supportive as we can, but in the end, they'll have to do it together in order to succeed.

And again, Mr. President, I thank you, and I want to thank the leaders of our Congress from the bottom of my heart for doing what I think is a good thing for America to do. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President's 193d news conference began at 3:05 p.m. in la Casa de Huespedes. In his remarks, the President referred to NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. President Pastrana referred to Vice President Lemas Gustavo Bell of Colombia. President Pastrana spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Biden and Speaker Hastert. A portion of the President's remarks

could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Department of Health and Human Services Action on Federal Services for People With Limited English Proficiency

August 30, 2000

Today I commend the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for being the first Federal agency to respond to Executive Order 13166, which will help people with limited English proficiency (LEP) access Federal and federally funded services. The HHS policy guidance issued today will assist health and social service providers to ensure that LEP individuals can access critical health and social services, and will assist our efforts to eliminate health disparities between LEP and English-speaking individuals. The guidance outlines the legal responsibilities of providers who assist people with limited English proficiency and receive Federal financial assistance from HHS and provides a flexible roadmap to assist those providers in their efforts to meet the language needs of the Nation's increasingly diverse population.

On August 11, 2000, I issued Executive Order 13166, which directed Federal agencies, by December 11, 2000, to establish written policies on the language accessibility of their programs and the programs of those who receive Federal funds. Federal agencies and recipients of Federal financial assistance must take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency can meaningfully access their programs. Language barriers are preventing the Federal Government and recipients of Federal financial assistance from effectively serving a large number of people in this country who are eligible to participate in their programs. Failure to systematically confront language barriers can lead to unequal access to Federal benefits based on national origin and can harm the mission of Federal agencies. Breaking down these barriers will allow individuals

with limited English proficiency to fully participate in American society.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Actions
Concerning Digital Computer
Exports**

August 30, 2000

Dear _____:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1211(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85) (the “Act”), I hereby notify you of my decision to establish a new level for the notification procedure for digital computers set forth in section 1211(a) of the Act. The new level will be 28,000 Millions of Theoretical Operations per Second (MTOPS). In accordance with the provisions of section 1211(e), I hereby notify you of my decision to remove Estonia from the list of countries covered under section 1211(b). The attached report provides the rationale supporting these decisions and fulfills the requirements of sections 1211(d) and (e) of the Act. I have made these changes based on the recommendation of the Departments of Defense, Commerce, State, and Energy.

Section 1211(d) provides that any adjustment to the control level described in 1211(a) cannot take effect until 180 days after receipt of this report by the Congress. Section 1211(e) provides that the removal of a country from the group of countries covered by section 1211(b) cannot take effect until 120 days after the Congress is notified. Given the rapid pace of technological change in the information technology industry, I believe these time periods are too long. I hope that we can work together to reduce both notification periods to 30 days.

I have also directed the Secretary of Commerce to adjust the licensing requirements for Tier 2 and Tier 3 countries. The new level above which an individual license will be required for exports to Tier 2 countries is 45,000 MTOPS. In addition, I have decided to implement a single licensing level for Tier 3: the new level above which an individual license will be required for exports to Tier 3 countries is 28,000 MTOPS. The afore-

mentioned licensing adjustments will take place immediately.

I look forward to working cooperatively with the Congress on these issues.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John W. Warner, chairman, and Carl Levin, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Phil Gramm, chairman, and Paul S. Sarbanes, ranking member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Floyd Spence, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Sam Gejdenson, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the Korean
Peninsula Energy Development
Organization**

August 30, 2000

Dear _____:

I transmit herewith the 6-month report required under the heading “International Organizations and Programs” in title IV of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–107), relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; Senators Joseph R. Biden, Jesse Helms, Patrick J. Leahy, and Mitch McConnell; and Representatives Sonny Callahan, Sam Gejdenson, Benjamin A. Gilman, and Nancy Pelosi. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31.